

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A malting composition comprising a maltable grain and a root retardant,  
5 said root retardant comprising corn steep liquor, wherein said growth inhibitor is  
present in said composition an amount effective to retard root formation of said  
maltable grain.

10 2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said maltable grain is selected  
from the group consisting of wheat, barley, and rye.

15 3. The composition of claim 1, comprising water in an amount effective to  
promote the malting of said maltable grain.

4. The composition of claim 1, wherein said root retardant is selected from  
the group consisting of dried corn steep liquor, and concentrated corn steep liquor.

20 5. A method of malting a maltable grain, comprising malting said maltable  
grain in the presence of a root retardant, said root retardant comprising corn steep  
liquor, and being present in an amount effective to retard root formation of said  
maltable grain.

6. A method according to claim 5, said maltable grain being selected from  
the group consisting of wheat, barley, and rye.

25 7. A malted composition produced in accordance with the method of claim  
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30 8. A method for making a fermented beverage, comprising:  
providing a malted malting composition, said malted malting  
composition having been made by malting a malting composition, said malting

composition comprising a fermentable grain and a root retardant, said growth inhibitor comprising corn steep liquor, wherein said root retardant is present in an amount effective to retard root formation of said fermentable grain; and fermenting said malted malting composition.

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9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said fermentable grain is selected from the group consisting of wheat, barley, and rye.

10. A fermented beverage produced in accordance with claim 8.

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11. A malting composition comprising a maltable grain and a root retardant, said root retardant comprising a mixture of MRS medium and lactic acid, wherein said root retardant is present in said composition in an amount effective to retard root formation of said maltable grain.

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12. A method of malting a maltable grain comprising:  
providing a maltable grain;  
selecting as a growth inhibitor, a growth inhibitor comprising corn steep liquor;

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adding to said maltable grain an amount of said selected growth inhibitor effective to inhibit rootlet formation from of said fermentable grain to thereby form a malting composition; and  
malting said malting composition.

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13. A method for making a fermented beverage, said malted malting composition having been made by comprising malting a malting composition, said malting composition having been prepared by:

providing a fermentable grain;  
selecting as a growth inhibitor, a growth inhibitor comprising corn steep

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liquor;

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adding to said fermentable grain an amount of said selected growth inhibitor effective to inhibit rootlet formation from said fermentable grain to thereby form a malting composition; and  
fermenting said malted malting composition.